

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (Original) The use of sodium chloride formulated coated with an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer such that during therapeutic application in or on the body the sodium chloride shows:

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the formulation;

in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of medical conditions at least partially characterised by blockage or other malfunction of exocrine glands.

2. (Original) The use according to claim 1 wherein the sodium chloride is in crystal form.

3. (Currently Amended) The use according claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the agent is a ceramic, a polymer or a natural wax.

4. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the agent encapsulates sodium chloride to form a sphere.

5. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 4 wherein the sphere is of a diameter between 1 mm and 10 mm.

6. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 4 ~~claims 4 or 5~~ wherein the sphere comprises sodium chloride crystals coated with beeswax hardened with cornstarch and talc.

7. (Original) Sodium chloride formulated coated with an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer such that during therapeutic application in or on the body the sodium chloride shows:

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the formulation;

in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of medical conditions at least partially characterised by blockage or other malfunction of exocrine glands.

8. (Original) Sodium chloride according to claim 7 wherein the agent is a ceramic, a polymer or a natural wax.

9. (Original) Sodium chloride according to claim 7 wherein the agent encapsulates sodium chloride to form a sphere.

10. (Original) Sodium chloride according to claim 9 wherein the sphere is of a diameter between 1 mm and 10 mm.

11. (Currently Amended) Sodium chloride according to claim 9 ~~either of claims 9 or 10~~ wherein the sphere comprises sodium chloride crystals coated with beeswax hardened with cornstarch and talc.

12. (Currently Amended) A patch suitable for adherence to skin containing coated sodium chloride according to claim 7 ~~any of claims 7-11~~ adapted for use in the treatment of medical conditions at least partially characterised by the blockage or other malfunction of exocrine glands.

13. (Original) The patch according to claim 12 comprising a sticking plaster suitable for adherence to skin.

14. (Original) The patch according to claim 13 comprising a hypoallergenic water resistant plaster.

15. (Currently Amended) The patch according to claim 13 ~~either of claims 13 or 14~~ in the form of a figure eight.

16. (Original) The patch according to claim 15 further comprising two spherical granules of sodium chloride.

17. (Original) A device consisting of a holder adapted for holding a medically efficacious compound, an energy source and an actuator driven by the energy source for temporarily and at intervals placing the compound in proximity to but not in contact with the skin of a subject such that during therapeutic use the sodium chloride shows:

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the device.

18. (Original) The device according to claim 17 adapted to be worn around the abdomen or thorax of a subject.

19. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 17 ~~either of claims 17 or 18~~ wherein the energy source is a low voltage battery.

20. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 17 ~~any of claims 17-19~~ further comprises an electronic timer.

21. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 17 ~~any of claims 17-20~~ wherein the actuator is a spring return push-rod solenoid.

22. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 17 ~~any of claims 17-21~~ adapted to hold sodium chloride.

23. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 17 ~~any of claims 17-21~~ adapted to hold sodium chloride coated ~~according to any of claims 7-11~~ with an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer such that during therapeutic application in or on the body the sodium chloride shows:

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the formulation;

in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of medical conditions at least partially characterised by blockage or other malfunction of exocrine glands.

24. (Original) A preparation comprising a medically efficacious substance coated or otherwise enclosed by an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer such that in use the medically efficacious substance shows:

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the preparation;

for use as a medicament.

25. (Original) A preparation according to claim 24, in a form selected from the group consisting of: a pill, a tablet, a lozenge, a bolus, a capsule, a caplet, a granule, a nanoparticle, and a microparticle.

26. (Original) A preparation according to claim 25, being in granular, nanoparticle or microparticle form selected from the group consisting of: a suspension, a cream, and a paste.

27. (Original) A preparation according to claim 24, prepared for use with a patch for holding said preparation near to or against the skin of a patient.

28. (Original) A preparation according to claim 24, prepared for implantation into the body of a patient.

29. (Currently Amended) A preparation according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 24-28~~, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of: a ceramic, a polymer, a natural wax, and beeswax hardened with cornstarch and talc.

30. (Currently Amended) A preparation according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 24-29~~, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of: sodium chloride, capsaicin, metformin, salicylic acid, and a derivative of salicylic acid.

31. (Currently Amended) A preparation according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 24-29~~, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of; a substance endogenous to the body, a food substance, a plant material, and a drug.

32. (Currently Amended) A preparation according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 24-31~~, combined with a preparation of at least one ingredient designed for delivery into solution.

33. (Currently Amended) A preparation according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 24-31~~ combined with a preparation of at least one ingredient designed for delivery into solution for a therapeutic purpose.

34. (Original) A method of manufacture of a medicament comprising coating or otherwise enclosing a medically efficacious substance in an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer such that during therapeutic application in or on the body the medically efficacious substance shows:

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the formulation.